

**Leadership Council Resolution 2011-01
Adopting an ecosystem recovery target for eelgrass**

WHEREAS, RCW 90.71.310(1)(c) states that “The action agenda shall include near-term and long-term benchmarks designed to ensure continuous progress needed to reach the goals, objectives, and designated outcomes by 2020;” and

WHEREAS, RCW 90.71.280(3), “the [leadership] council shall confer with the [science] panel on incorporating ... benchmarks into the action agenda;” and

WHEREAS, the Partnership has applied the term “targets” to refer to long-term benchmarks designed to ensure progress to designated outcomes by 2020; and

WHEREAS, the science-policy workshop convened as part of the Science Panel meeting on December 14, 2010 recommended that the Partnership adopt ecosystem recovery targets to address the full breadth of the Partnership’s interests in a recovered ecosystem as part of the 2011 revisions to the action agenda; and

WHEREAS, fringing beds and meadows of eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) provide important habitat functions and services, and eelgrass has been adopted as one of the Partnership’s Dashboard indicators of ecosystem condition; and

WHEREAS, technical experts from the Department of Natural Resources have presented analyses to the Partnership about potential ecosystem recovery targets for eelgrass; and

WHEREAS, the Ecosystem Coordination Board has discussed potential ecosystem recovery targets for eelgrass, based on the background information presented in advance of their February 3, 2011 meeting; and

WHEREAS, the above processes provide sufficient background for adoption of ecosystem recovery targets consistent with the Partnership’s guiding principles for target setting.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Partnership’s ecosystem recovery target for eelgrass shall be expressed as:

Eelgrass extent in 2020 is 120 percent of area measured in the 2000-2008 baseline period.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that once all the targets are set, an ecosystem wide reconciliation of targets will take place; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that reevaluation of this target will be triggered at the direction of the Partnership's Science Panel based on their evaluation of improved scientific information about ecosystem conditions and pressures.

Resolution Moved By: David Dicks

Resolution Seconded By: Dan O'Neal

Approved/Denied/Deferred (underline one)

DATE: February 17, 2011